

### THE TEST OF THE DIAMOND.

Many years ago a slave in Brazil found a supposed diamond of nearly a pound weight. It was presented to the Emperor, was constantly guarded by soldiers, and was supposed to represent millions of money. An English mineralogist, however produced a cutting diamond, and with a scratch exposed the pleasing fallacy. One stroke was enough. A real gem would have suffered no scratch; but it was no diamond at all, and the millions vanished in a moment into the air. So a single stroke pierces and exposes character. It was thus with Christ and the rich young man. He kept all the Commandments, had kept them all from his youth up. Said he, complacently: "What lack I yet?" Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come and follow me." Fatal scratch! The youth was only a white crystal after all. "But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions."

So was it with the woman of Samaria. How smart she was, how ready with history, what an excellent controversialist! "Jesus said unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither." One keen cut, and the jewel which had charmed many knew itself to be paste.

So God will, one day or another, in one way or another, find us out. We notice sometimes that our friends suddenly stand revealed in a light most unexpected: They flash upon us in a character hitherto wholly unsuspected. Indeed the most startling revelations we witness are revelations of people whom we have known for years. And so our true selves may long be concealed from ourselves; but at last God makes us to know of what spirit we are, and we become filled with astonishment and distress.

By Christ "the thoughts of many hearts are revealed;" by him "the world is convinced of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment." The Pharisee at last takes the place of the publican, and smiting upon his breast, cries: "God be merciful to me a sinner!"

### TO MAKE A HOUSE INTO A HOME.

The biggest blunder you ever made was when you let your boy run things. What Young America needs above all things is untiring, uncompromising, gentle and affectionate parental authority. He likes it. Bring him up by it, and twenty years from now, after you are gone, if you get within ear-shot you'd hear him praising "the way father used to do."

Recreation is a necessity, but in a home where the mother and her guests sit for hours at the card table playing for prizes, leaving the children in charge of the servants, no amount of church-going and profession of belief will avail to develop character in those children.

Home is the real test of character. No saint is ready for translation till he can live wisely, courageously, bravely, amiably and consistently at home. Self-control and silence know how to keep house—how to transform a house into a home—and will-power and good sense will teach one when and how long they should be exercised.—Bishop J. H. Vincent.

What to others are disappointments, are to believers intimations of the way and will of God.—John Newton.

## Quiet Hour

### MY VOICE SHALT THOU HEAR IN THE MORNING."

The morning is the gate of day, and should be well guarded with prayer. It is one end of the thread on which the day's actions are strung, and should be well knotted with devotion. If we felt more the majesty of life we should be more careful of its mornings. He who rushes from his bed to his business and waiteth not to worship is as foolish as though he had not put on his clothes, or cleansed his face, and as unwise as though he dashed into battle without arms or armor. Be it ours to bathe in the softly flowing river of communion with God before the heat of the wilderness and the burden of the way begin to oppress us.—Spurgeon.

"The trouble which the Lord has with us is that we covet a spectacular experience; we long to shine as stars of the first magnitude; we desire the success shown in the year book; we seek the Spirit's power as an end rather than as a means to an end; we seek it for self-glory, rather than for the glory of God; we seek the special gifts of the Spirit, rather than the Spirit himself. We must not try to use the Spirit in the accomplishment of our work, but we must consent to let the Spirit use us in the accomplishment of his work."

### THE VOICE OF GOD.

The conviction of immortality is God-given, and every true Christian knows by direct revelation that there is a life beyond the grave and that that life extends through all eternity. Be your eloquence ever so persuasive, your arguments ever so shrewd, or your logic ever so clear, you can not rob the true Christian of his faith in a future life. God put it there and it stays there, just so long as there is a spark of life in the soul of man. For what philosophy, logic or science can undermine the faith of a soul which has had this vision:

I spoke to my God  
As I knelt in prayer,  
And I said, "Thy care  
Is our guard and guide,  
Is she 'neath the sod  
Who they say has died?"

And the answer came as a trumpet calls,  
"She abides with me in the heavenly halls."

### TWO BIBLES.

Dr. Greenfell, the famous missionary now at work in Labrador, has sent to the Congregational Library in Boston the Bible that was associated with his early Christian life. It lies by the side of Mr. Moody's Bible. It was Moody who led Grenfell into the light. In sending the Bible to Boston Dr. Grenfell said: "I love the very copy. It has meant so very, very much to me. God give me the same zeal I had at first to see men decide."